

Film Star Wax Museum Planned Near Disney

By TOM MYERS
TODAY Business Editor

Six Flags, Inc., whose three amusement parks probably come closest to rivaling Disney World's vast scope, next year will begin competing in Mickey Mouse's backyard.

However, the Six Flags group won't bump head to head with Disney's Magic Kingdom. Instead, it will send a line-up of Hollywood's top box office kings and queens

into the battle for the Central Florida tourist dollar.

Six Flags will build a \$6 million wax museum — the Stars Hall of Fame — near the I-4 interchange with the Bee-line Expressway.

The Hall of Fame will feature wax replicas of "great stars of motion picture and television history in their most famous roles," said Joe Prevratil, vice president of Movieland Wax Museum at Buena Park, Calif., a similar

but smaller Six Flags project.

Depicted among the 150 wax figures on 90 movie sets will be Charlie Chaplin as the Little Tramp, Mae West as Diamond Lil, John Wayne as Hondo and Clark Gable as Rhett Butler.

The Hall of Fame will be built on a seven-acre tract near Sea World, the marine animal attraction which opens Saturday. The wax museum will be housed in a 60,000-square-foot structure, com-

pared with the 40,000 square feet of the Movieland Wax Museum — located about 4½ miles from California's Disneyland.

The new museum will have a theater and a "time tunnel" depicting film history as well as the life-sized wax figures in the Hall of Fame.

"There will be a three-to five-minute presentation in the theater," said Prevratil, "then visitors will walk through the time tunnel that will take

them from 1974 back to the turn of the century through movie history." The tunnel will offer special audio-visual effects.

"We hope to break ground in the early part of January and open for Christmas in 1974," the museum executive said. "The figures already are being made; they have been working on them for a year. It takes two years to make all of the figures."

Stars Hall of Fame will be

an "enlarged, more comprehensive" version of the West Coast wax museum, Prevratil said. The cost of the wax figures alone will run to more than \$600,000, excluding costumes, he said.

Six Flags, a subsidiary of Great Southwest Corp., operates the Six Flags Over Georgia, Six Flags Over Texas and Six Flags Over Mid-America amusement parks and other attractions.

Stars Hall of Fame

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